

FEI DRIVING WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP for FOUR-IN-HAND 2026 – Aachen (GER)



NATIONAL DISCIPLINE SELECTION POLICY 2026 WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS

DRIVING

Version 04

Effective Date: 22 July 2025

Review and Approval: Reviewed and approved by the Equestrian Australia Board.

1 Policy

This selection policy (the 'policy') covers the discipline of Driving (Four-in-Hand).

- 1.1 The selection criteria have been approved by the High Performance Committee (HPC) and the Board of Equestrian Australia (EA) and will take effect on and from the date of approval by the Board. It will cease to have effect at the conclusion of the Championships.
- 1.2 This selection criteria applies to:
 - a) All Athletes; and
 - b) EA

2 Objective

To select Combinations that in the absolute discretion of EA operating through the National Driving Selection Panel ('the **NDSP**') will be most likely to achieve the highest Competition results at the Championship.

3 Eligibility Criteria

3.1 Athletes

For Athletes to be eligible for selection for the World Championship Nominated Entries, all Athletes must be selected as part of a Combination.

EA will not select an Athlete as part of a Combination unless, as at the Nominated Entries Date, EA is satisfied on reasonable grounds that the Athlete:

- a) is a national of Australia and eligible to compete for Australia as determined by International Federation (FEI) General Regulation **Article 119- Sport Nationality Status of Athletes** which can be [accessed here](#);
- b) is and will continue to be, eligible to participate in the Championships as an Australian Athlete;
- c) is a member in good standing with EA;
- d) satisfies the Qualification system;
- e) has not committed any offence under the anti-doping policies of Sport Integrity Australia, the World Anti-doping Authority or EA for which a sanction imposed has not been discharged;
- f) has not committed any offence under any other policies of Sport Integrity Australia, the World Anti-doping Authority or EA for which a sanction imposed has not been discharged;
- g) has achieved all the Minimum Eligibility Requirements (MER), as set out in the Qualification System;

- h) does not, is not likely to in the foreseeable future, suffer from any physical or mental impairment that would prevent the Athlete from competing at the Championship to the highest possible standard for that Athlete;
- i) agrees to complete any education models requested by the FEI or EA;
- j) be able and willing to prepare an agreed training and competition program recommended by the High Performance Director and NDSP after consultation with the Athlete;
- k) is nominating Horse(s) that are registered with the International Federation and eligible to compete for Australia under **FEI General Regulation Article 113-Registration and Eligibility of Athletes and Horses**. For more information, click [here](#);
- l) is willing to make their Horse(s) available for examination at a time and location reasonably requested by the Team Veterinarian, or a veterinarian nominated by the Team Veterinarian, High Performance Director or Chair of the Driving Selection Panel and accept and implement the reasonable recommendations of the Team Veterinarian;
- m) has notified the Team Veterinarian, Chef d'Equipe and High Performance Director of any change in their Horse(s) health status or of any veterinary issues when they first become apparent;
- n) has not used or administered any substance to the Horse(s) that is in contravention of the EA Medication Control Policy and/or the FEI Anti-doping and Controlled Medication Regulations unless they have been sanctioned for the breach and completed the sanction imposed;
- o) satisfies any reasonable additional precondition(s) prior to the nomination date that have been advised in writing to the Athlete by EA;
- p) has not by their actions or omissions brought the Athlete, the discipline of Driving or EA into public disrepute or censure, unless such conduct is disclosed to EA in the EA Athlete Agreement and EA decides to confirm the Athlete's eligibility notwithstanding such conduct;
- q) will sign a EA Athlete Agreement when required by EA;
- r) will consent to a EA Integrity Check (refer to Clause 7, Integrity);
- s) accepts that EA requires all those members involved in international equestrian competition sport to accept that at all times the welfare of the horse must be paramount. All Athletes must adhere at all times to the [FEI Code of Conduct for the Welfare of the Horse](#) ; and
- t) holds a current passport with an expiry date no less than six (6) months after the final date of the World Championship competition.

3.2 Horses

EA will not select a Horse for the World Championship unless EA is satisfied on reasonable grounds that the horse:

- a) is registered with EA (or the corresponding Federation of the nation in which the horse is domiciled);
- b) holds a current FEI passport or FEI Recognition Card;
- c) has been registered with the International Federation as determined by FEI General Regulation **Article 113- Registration and Eligibility of Athletes and Horses**;
- d) has been examined to the satisfaction of the Team Veterinarian (or Veterinarian nominated by the Team Veterinarian); and
- e) is not subject to a current sanction under the EA or FEI Equine Anti-doping and Controlled Medication regulations.

3.3 Horse Owner/s

In order for a Combination to be considered for selection to the Team, EA must receive from the owner/s (if applicable) of the selected horse a signed copy of the Equestrian Australia Horse Owner Agreement when requested by EA.

4 Process of Selection

Subject to the terms of the policy and any additional FEI qualification and entry requirements:

- 4.1 On or before Nominated Entries Date, the NDSP will announce up to six (6) qualified Athletes with a maximum of ten (10) Horses per Four-In-Hand Combination to be nominated to the FEI ('the **World Championship Nominated Entries**').
- 4.2 On or before Definite Entries Date, the NDSP will select up to three (3) Athletes with a maximum of five (5) Horses per Four-in-Hand Combination which, in the opinion of EA operating through its National Driving Selection Panel, in its absolute discretion, will be most likely to achieve the highest competitive results at the Championships (the '**World Championship Driving Team**').
- 4.3 The World Championship Driving Team will be selected from the World Championship Nominated Entries. If there are not a sufficient number of Combinations available to constitute a Team, an Individual Combination may be nominated by the NDSP.

5 Substitution

Following selection to the World Championship Driving Team and prior to Definite Entries Date:

- a) if a selected member or horse of the World Championship Driving Team is deemed unfit to travel or compete with by the NDSP (in consultation with the High Performance Director and the Team Veterinarian); or

b) ceases to comply with the Athlete, Horse and Horse Owner eligibility in Clause 3;
or

c) breaches their EA Athlete Agreement;

that member of the World Championship Driving Team may be replaced by another previously selected for the World Championship Nominated Entries ('a **Substitution**) In this instance, the World Championship Substitution Combination:

a) will be selected according to the criteria in Clause 4, 4.1-4.3 above.

b) Will be nominated to the FEI completely at the discretion of the NDSP (and guided by the High Performance Director, Team Veterinarian and Chef d'Equipe.

6 Selection Criteria

The selection criteria combine pre-requisite FEI Minimum Eligibility Requirement (MER) followed by EA Competition Criteria and Discretionary Considerations.

6.1 Minimum Eligibility Requirement

To be able to participate in the Championship, all Athletes/Horses must achieve, as a Combination, the MER set out under the Four-in-Hand section of the FEI Driving Championships [2026 Championships](#) Qualification Criteria document.

6.2 Competition Criteria

In addition to Clause 6.1, to be eligible for consideration for selection, a Combination is to have achieved the following competition criteria:

- a) provide proof of achieving scores at CAI3* and above at more than one competition between 1 January 2025 and Nominated Entries Date;
- b) one of the qualifying results must be achieved no earlier than 1 January 2026;
- c) successfully complete (without Elimination, Disqualification, or Retirement) all three (3) competitions (Dressage, Marathon and Cones) in their own class.

6.3 Discretionary Considerations

For the purposes of assessing Combinations that have achieved the criteria in Clause 6.2 the NDSP may consider the following factors in its sole and absolute discretion:

- a) the level of competition and the depth of the field at which each result was obtained;
- b) the consistency of the Combinations performances;
- c) an improving trend in the Combinations performances during 2026;
- d) more recent results, placing weight on scores in 2026;
- e) the ability of the Combination to compete successfully at high level international

competition;

- f) demonstrated experience/success at international events;
 - g) the ability or potential of the Combination to perform under the stress and pressure of an event such as the Championships;
 - h) the ability of the Athlete to contribute to an effective and harmonious national team;
 - i) the advice of EA High Performance Director, Chef d'Equipe and Team Veterinarians, particularly concerning the fitness to perform at the required level.
- 6.4** The NDSP has the discretion to place greater or lesser emphasis on any one or more of the factors outlined in Clause 6.3.
- 6.5** In determining whether a Combination has satisfied the criteria set out in Clause 3 and Clause 6, 6.2 to 6.3 above, EA may have regard to Extenuating Circumstances.

7 Integrity

As a condition of Selection and part of EA's commitment to upholding the highest standards of Integrity, EA will request Athlete consent for disclosure of any open integrity complaints or substantiated findings made against the Athlete in the past three (3) years. This information will be used solely for the purpose of evaluating eligibility and adherence to Integrity standards. Refer to Appendix 1 which outlines the framework and includes the formal consent form.

8 Appeals

A non-selected Athlete may only appeal against their non-Selection in accordance with the EA Selection Appeals Policy. For more information, [click here](#).

9 Selection Ombudsman

The High Performance Committee (HPC) will appoint a Selection Ombudsman to assist Athletes and the HPC to understand the process of selection and to explore resolution of potential disputes concerning selection and non-selection.

9.1 Powers of the Selection Ombudsman

- a) Investigate acts and omissions of the EA National Discipline Selection Panels in relation to the exercise of their powers under the Discipline Selection Policies where:
 - i. an Athlete has indicated that they are considering appealing a selection decision;
 - ii. a NDSP seeks clarification; and
 - iii. the Selection Ombudsman wishes to investigate on their own motion.
- b) For the purpose of promoting and monitoring compliance with the relevant Discipline Selection Policy the Selection Ombudsman:

- i. may, and will be invited to, attend relevant meetings and have access to relevant materials and communications of the NDSP;
 - ii. communicates primarily with the High Performance Director and Chairs of Selectors of disciplines; and
 - iii. communicates directly to Athletes through explanatory and debriefing sessions arranged by the High Performance Director.
- c) The Selection Ombudsman is not required to investigate all complaints or inquiries. For example, the Selection Ombudsman may refuse to deal with a matter if the Selection Ombudsman considers:
 - i. it is trivial, frivolous, vexatious or not made in good faith; or
 - ii. it lacks substance or credibility; or
 - iii. the subject matter of the complaint or inquiry has already been investigated or otherwise dealt with by the Selection Ombudsman.
- d) Investigations by the Selection Ombudsman must be completed promptly and within the timeframes governing rights of appeal by non-selected Athletes.
- e) The Selection Ombudsman prepares timely written reports to the High Performance Director that address any acts or omissions of the relevant NDSP in relation to the exercise of their powers under the Discipline Selection policy and may make recommendations which must be given due consideration by the HPC and the relevant NDSP. The report may at the discretion of the High Performance Director be provided in full or in part to the Athlete but is otherwise confidential.

10 Amendments

This Selection Criteria may only be amended with the approval of the Equestrian Australia Board. If amended, Equestrian Australia must publish the updated Selection Criteria to Equestrian Australia's Website and advise Athletes of the amendment.

11 Governing Law

This Selection Criteria is governed by the laws of the State of New South Wales.

12 Definitions and Interpretations

12.1 Definitions

Athlete means a person who:

- a) participates in the Sport; and
- b) is recognised by EA as eligible for Selection to the Team pursuant to this Selection Criteria.

Championships means the 2026 FEI World Championships for Four-in-Hand Horses



Combination means an Athlete, Backstepper, Navigator, Groom and the Four-in-Hand Horse's

Definite Entries Date means the date on which definite entries to the Championships must be submitted to the FEI by EA and is generally four (4) days prior to the commencement of the event. The FEI is still to advise all National Federations of this date.

Extenuating Circumstances means:

- c) injury or illness;
- d) equipment failure;
- e) travel delays;
- f) bereavement or disability arising from death or serious illness of an immediate family member, which means a spouse, de facto partner, child, parent, grandparent, grandchild or sibling; or
- g) any other factors considered by EA to constitute extenuating circumstances.

FEI Rules means the FEI Regulations for Equestrian Events at the World Championships published by the International Federation, as updated from time to time. For more information, [click here](#).

FEI Qualification Period means 01 January 2025 to the Nominated Entries Date.

High Performance Committee or HPC means the Committee with delegated responsibility for oversight and guidance of EA's High Performance Program.

Horse means the horse to be selected as part of a Combination.

International Federation means Federation Equestre Internationale ("FEI").

Minimum Eligibility Requirements or MER is FEI terminology and has the meaning given in the Qualification System (EA General Regulations Article 117 refers to MER as Minimum Eligibility Standard or MES/they are one and the same).

National Driving Selection Panel (NDSP) means the [Panel of Selectors](#) approved via the relevant appointment processes by the High Performance Committee and EA Board and charged with the responsibility of selecting Combinations to represent Australia in the sport of Driving at the Championships.

Nominated Entries Date means the date on which nominated entries to the Championships must be submitted to the FEI by EA and is generally twenty-eight (28) days prior to the commencement of the event. The FEI is still to advise all National Federations of this date.

Qualification system means the eligibility, participation and qualification criteria for the Sport in respect of the Championships issued by the FEI. For more information, [click here](#).



Selection Appeals Policy means the EA policy which is available [here](#).

Sport means Driving.

Team means the team of Athletes and officials selected by EA to participate in the Sport at the Championships.

12.2 Interpretation

- a) Unless the context otherwise requires, reference to:
 - i. a clause is to a clause of this Selection Criteria;
 - ii. the singular includes the plural and the converse also applies;
 - iii. persons include incorporated and unincorporated bodies, partnerships, joint ventures and associations and vice versa and their legal personal representatives, successors and permitted assigns and substitutes; and
 - iv. a party includes the party's executors, administrators, successors and permitted assigns and substitutes.
- b) If a person to whom this Selection Criteria applies consists of more than one person, then this Selection Criteria binds them jointly and severally.
- c) A reference to time, day or date is to time, day or date of Sydney, Australia.
- d) Headings are for convenience only and do not form part of this Selection Criteria or affect its interpretation.



Appendix 1 – Sport Integrity and the National Integrity Framework

Sport Integrity Australia (SIA) and Equestrian Australia are committed to protecting our sport. Threats to sports integrity, which may include competition-manipulation, doping and behaviors that impact people's positive experience of sport are taken seriously.

More information on the National Integrity Framework can be found at:

<https://www.equestrian.org.au/content/ea-integrity>

EA Integrity Check Consent Form

The consent form will be treated as a confidential document.

All correspondence in relation to the Integrity Check must be directed to the EA Integrity Manager.

To enable confidentiality, once completed and signed by the Athlete and their Witness, the Equestrian Australia Integrity Check Consent Form must be returned via email to integrity@equestrian.org.au.

EQUESTRIAN AUSTRALIA INTEGRITY CHECK CONSENT FORM

Equestrian Australia Integrity Unit
Operating under the Sport Integrity Australia (SIA) National Integrity Framework

Date: _____

PARTICIPANT INFORMATION

Full Name: _____

Date of Birth: _____

EA Member Number: _____

Contact Phone: _____

Email Address: _____

PURPOSE OF INTEGRITY CHECK

This consent form authorises Equestrian Australia to conduct an integrity check under the EA Integrity Framework. The EA Integrity Unit operates under the Sport Integrity Australia (SIA) National Integrity Framework and maintains authority over integrity matters within Equestrian Australia's membership.

This check is being conducted for the following purpose:

Employment/Appointment

Volunteer Position

Coaching Accreditation

Official Appointment

Team Selection

Director Nomination

National Discipline Committee Nomination

Other: _____

SCOPE OF INTEGRITY CHECK

I understand that this integrity check will specifically examine:

EA Integrity Unit Database Check

- Any open integrity cases currently under EA Integrity Unit investigation
- Substantiated findings recorded by EA Integrity Unit in the last three (3) years
- Active sanctions or restrictions imposed by EA Integrity Unit
- Current monitoring requirements under EA authority

Timeframe

The check will cover the period from _____ to present day (minimum 3 years).

TYPES OF INTEGRITY MATTERS COVERED

I understand that the check may reveal information relating to:

- Competition Integrity: Match-fixing, competition manipulation, betting violations
- Safeguarding: Child protection matters, harassment, abuse, discrimination
- Conduct: Serious breaches of codes of conduct, violent behaviour
- Anti-Doping: Doping violations (where applicable)
- Criminal Matters: Relevant criminal convictions affecting sport participation
- Other Integrity Issues: As defined under the SIA National Integrity Framework

AUTHORISATION

I hereby authorise the Equestrian Australia Integrity Unit to:

- Access my records within EA Integrity Unit systems
- Review any integrity matters recorded against my name within EA authority
- Obtain details of any open cases or investigations under EA management
- Access substantiated findings from EA Integrity Unit records in the past three years
- Share relevant findings with authorised EA decision-makers
- Store results in accordance with EA Integrity Unit privacy requirements

UNDERSTANDING OF PROCESS

I understand that:

- This is a database check conducted by the EA Integrity Unit
- The EA Integrity Unit operates under the SIA National Integrity Framework
- Only integrity matters within EA authority will be checked
- The check covers a three-year period for substantiated findings
- Open cases under EA Integrity Unit management will be identified regardless of when they commenced
- Results will be provided to EA for decision-making purposes
- I will be notified by EA Integrity Unit if any relevant matters are found
- The EA Integrity Unit coordinates with SIA and other sporting integrity units as required

DISCLOSURE REQUIREMENTS

Current Open Cases: I declare whether I am currently subject to any open integrity investigations:

No open cases

Yes - Details: _____

Recent Findings: I declare whether I have received any substantiated integrity findings in the last 3 years:

No substantiated findings

Yes - Details: _____

Pending Matters: I declare whether I am aware of any pending integrity matters:

No pending matters

Yes - Details: _____

PRIVACY AND CONFIDENTIALITY

I understand that:

- Information will be handled in accordance with Privacy Act 1988
- Only authorised EA personnel will access detailed results
- Information sharing will comply with SIA framework requirements
- Records will be stored securely and retained as per EA policies
- I may request access to my information subject to privacy laws

CONSEQUENCES OF FINDINGS

I understand that if the integrity check reveals:

Open Cases:

- My application/participation may be suspended pending resolution
- Additional monitoring or conditions may be imposed
- Regular review of case status may be required

Substantiated Findings (Last 3 Years):

- Findings will be assessed for relevance to my proposed role
- Additional safeguards or restrictions may be applied
- Some findings may preclude participation in certain activities
- Appeals process may be available under EA procedures

No Adverse Findings:

- Processing of my application will continue normally
- Clearance will be recorded for the specified period

CONSENT DECLARATION

By signing below, I:

- Consent to the EA Integrity Unit conducting an integrity check under the SIA National Integrity Framework
- Authorise access to EA Integrity Unit database records relating to me
- Understand the scope, purpose, and potential consequences of this check
- Have provided complete and accurate information in this form
- Understand that false declarations may result in disciplinary action by EA Integrity Unit
- Agree to notify EA Integrity Unit immediately of any new integrity matters that arise

Participant Signature: _____ Date: _____

Full Name (Print): _____

Witness Signature: _____ Date: _____

Witness Name (Print): _____

FOR EA INTEGRITY UNIT USE ONLY

Integrity Officer: _____

Date Received: _____

Integrity Check Requested by: _____

Results Received: _____

Outcome: _____

Outcome Notification Date: _____

Review Date: _____

Check Results Summary:

No adverse findings

Open case(s) identified

Substantiated finding(s) in last 3 years

Further assessment required

This consent is valid for the specific check requested. Additional consent will be required for future integrity checks. EA reserves the right to conduct additional checks as required under the EA Integrity Framework.